

PRESS RELEASE

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Georgia DOT Urges Public To Avoid All But Essential Travel Tuesday & Wednesday

ATLANTA – As winter weather enters Metropolitan Atlanta and North Georgia, the State Department of Transportation is advising the public in those areas to refrain from all but absolutely necessary driving tomorrow through midday Thursday.

Georgia DOT – in conjunction with Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and Georgia State Patrol (GSP) – is prepared to respond to two likely winter weather events: one extending from this evening through approximately Noon, tomorrow, and a second likely to begin tomorrow night and continue until perhaps Thursday morning. Both will involve possible snow, freezing rain and ice. Temperatures are expected to be considerably colder during the second event heightening the risk of ice accumulation from tomorrow night through Thursday. While temperatures are forecast to remain above freezing tonight and most of tomorrow, rain and snow are likely and freezing rain may also occur. Driving conditions will worsen throughout the day and particularly so tomorrow night and into Wednesday as the second weather system is expected to feature much colder temperatures and carries the risk of generating significant icing.

GEMA and Georgia DOT activated their Emergency Operations Center and Special Operations Center, respectively, today; those centers will remain active throughout both events. (A resource and contact fact sheet is attached.)

Georgia DOT has reassigned resources to deal with the weather systems: a total of 36 snow plow trucks and more than 150 employees have been relocated from southern areas of the state for use in the Metro area and regions north. The Metro Atlanta area has another 36 snow plow trucks for use as well, bringing the total available for duty here to 72.

State officials have advised the commercial trucking industry to avoid all unnecessary truck traffic through Metropolitan Atlanta during these events. If conditions warrant, the Department will post messages on our Changeable Message Signs requiring chains on trucks using selected routes.

Georgia DOT is consulting with multiple weather forecasting services to determine if highway pre-treatment will be practical. The Department needs about a 4-hour window absent of rain and heavy traffic to effectively pre-treat roadways.

Finally, officials encourage those who must drive to be extremely cautious and aware of changing road conditions.

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